

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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WHY DO SOULS GO AWAY FROM JESUS?

By the late George W. Truett, D.D.

"Then said Jesus unto the twelve: Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."—John 6:67, 68.

In a very frank way and with a deep desire to help you, I should like to ask you, one by one, the personal question, What are your relations to Jesus, the Saviour and Master? Every one must have personal relations with Him. We must be His friends or His foes. We must be for Him or against Him. What are your personal relations to the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you for Him or against Him?

Once when He was here among men in the flesh, and the multitudes were following Him, and He was teaching them pungently what following Him meant, the crowds were depleted, and grew less and less before His searching teaching, and finally He turned to the twelve apostles who were following Him and put to them this plaintive question: "Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."

Our text this morning is that searching question Jesus asked the twelve: "Will ye also go away?" The text suggests two burning questions for us this morning. Why do people go away from Jesus? Where do they go? God give us to face faithfully for a little while at this midday service these two weighty questions.

Why Do People Go Away From Jesus?

Why do people go away from Jesus? The fundamental reason is want of grace in the heart, the lack of true faith, the absence of vital godliness. The Apostle John tells us: "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would not doubt have continued with us; but they went out from us that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." But we are back to that searching question, Why do people go away from Jesus? Many do go away from Him. Why? Now, the outward reasons for their going reveal what is in their hearts, and we may glance this morning at some of these outward reasons why people go away from Jesus.

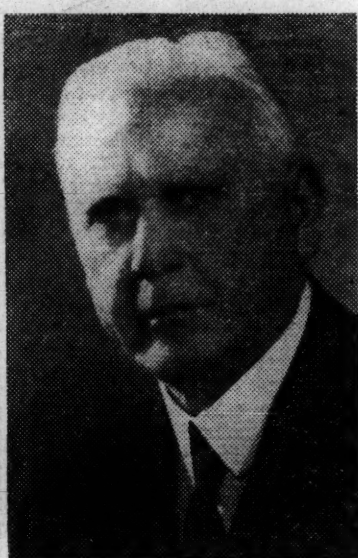
They Object to His Teaching

Here, on the occasion of our text, they went away from Him because they objected to His teaching. Through the long centuries, again and again, many have manifestly gone away from

Jesus because they objected to His teaching. Read the context here in the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, and you will hear the multitudes as they cry out under His teaching: "This is a hard saying; who can hear it?" And so they turned away from Him because they objected to His teaching. The gospel of Jesus Christ, my friends, is very humbling to poor human nature. Pride revolts at the gospel of Christ. And yet such gospel is not designed to please man, but rather to save him. Jesus comes in His appeal to men, and puts before them the clear demand: "If you would have me for your Saviour, I must come first, before father or mother or children or dearest loved ones, or your own property or your own life. I must come first." That is not easy. That is death to self. That is self-crucifixion. And yet you would not have it any other way. Let us make religion easy and we will play it out. Let us make religion hard, even with the hardness of the terms of discipleship laid down by Jesus, and it will be triumphant anywhere in the world.

Because of the Fear of Man

Why do people go away from Jesus? Full many a time they



Rev. George W. Truett, D.D.

go away from Him because of the fear of man. That is indeed a biting saying in the Bible where it is declared: "The fear of man bringeth a snare." Pilate was not the only man who betrayed Jesus, and in that same act betrayed himself through the fear of man. All about us the fear of man plays the most desperate havoc in human life. All through the social order, in the world intellectual, and the world of business, and the world political, and the world social, the highest interests are betrayed, and the supreme call of Christ set aside, through the fear of men. There comes in the tragic power and peril of influence. What can some men mean, and women, by the

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Four Gospel Absurdities

If a Born-Again Soul Ever Loses Salvation

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..."—John 3:36.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."—John 5:24.

"...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."—John 6:37.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."—John 10:27-29.

Can a child of God lose his salvation? When one has truly repented of his sins, has trusted Christ for forgiveness, and has received it; when one has truly been born again and God has put within him a new heart and he has become a partaker of the divine nature, as the Bible says a Christian does; can that Christian then fall away, lose his salvation and be forever lost? Some honest, good people think so. They think that when we preach that the wonderful grace of God saves

Hell-deserving sinners, and keeps them saved, though undeserving, we are going too far. They believe that any Bible teaching on the eternal security of a believer in Christ is "a dangerous doctrine."

To help us understand the clear Bible teaching on this subject, let us suppose that a child of God can fall away and be lost after he has truly been saved. Let us suppose that many who have been converted have lost their salva-

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"ONCE FOR ALL"

"... we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."—Heb. 10:10.

Free from the law, O happy condition,
Jesus hath bled, and there is remission;
Cursed by the law and bruised by the fall,
Grace hath redeemed us once for all.

Now are we free—there's no condemnation,
Jesus provides a perfect salvation;
"Come unto Me," O hear His sweet call,
Come, and He saves us once for all.

"Children of God," O glorious calling,
Surely His grace will keep us from falling;
Passing from death to life at His call,
Blessed salvation once for all.

Chorus:

Once for all, O sinner, receive it,
Once for all, O brother, believe it;
Cling to the Cross, the burden will fall,
Christ hath redeemed us once for all.

—P. P. Bliss

How To Build A Soul-Winning Church

By Rev. W. E. Dowell, Pastor
High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri

I call your attention to a verse of Scripture in the Bible that actually gives the key to the building of a soul-winning church—Acts 5:42: "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

The real mission of the church is to win souls to Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20 says: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

We read in Mark 16:15, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Again, Luke 24:46-48 says: "And said unto them, Thus it is written and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things."

In John 17:18 we read these words: "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."

In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The Apostle Paul, the great missionary and church builder, recognized his responsibility in soul winning and declared in Romans 1:14 to 16, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome

also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

I make bold to say a church that is not a soul-winning church is not a true New Testament church. We are living at a time when many churches are substituting other things for soul winning. A recreational and social program claims first attention in many modern churches and I make bold to say that it is a stench in the nostrils of God.

A social program is no substitute for soul winning. The Great Commission of our Lord to the church is threefold. First, we are to make disciples; second, "bap-

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Rev. W. E. Dowell

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AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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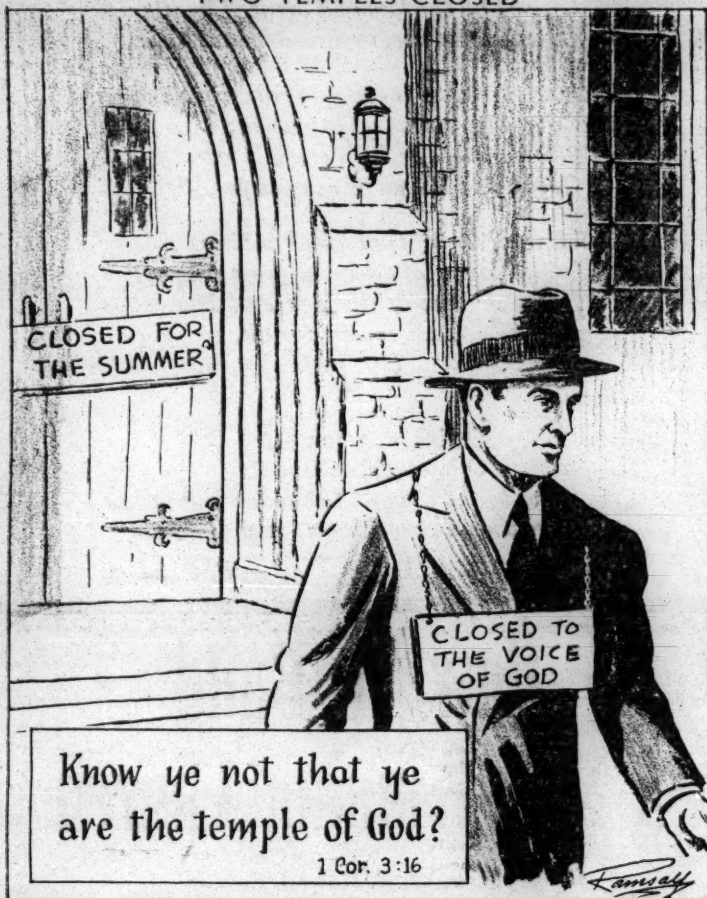
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The Gospel at a Glance

By Charles L. Ramsay

TWO TEMPLES CLOSED



Another original Christian cartoon by Charles L. Ramsay, SWORD OF THE LORD cartoonist. Ramsay's 101 CHRISTIAN CARTOONS, with helpful comments, is now available. Sent postpaid \$1 a copy. Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.

Methodist Pastor Defends Socialism, Modernism of Bishop Oxnham

By the Editor

Under August 24 date, Rev. Arthur M. Crawford, pastor of First Methodist Church, Dunkirk, New York, writes the editor as follows:

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I was glad to see the critical letters concerning your E. Stanley Jones correspondence published in your paper. No doubt there are many more, like myself, who didn't write but feel like those who did. (I did write, but not directly to you, sending a carbon copy your way.)

"This name calling—Dr. Oxnham, 'the red bishop'—stoops very low for a Christian gentleman. This lumping of people who think liberally on social issues into the camp of communists is a very serious matter. You have accepted the Fascist technique. Our Lord would consider this a very serious matter, I believe. He stood for freedom in man under God against the stifling influences of the Jewish authorities. Paul stood for the same freedom against the Judaizers in the early church. Bishop Oxnham, Stanley Jones, and most of those you castigate are in this same tradition. Are you *sure* you are not the one out of step with Jesus, Paul, and the guiding of the Holy Spirit in our day? I have failed to find evidence of Christian humility on your part in the content of these discussions. What Christian dare be so sure in these matters as you purport to be?

"Sincerely yours,"
(Signed) Arthur M. Crawford

The editor's answer is given here as follows:

September 10, 1951

"Dear Mr. Crawford:

"Your letter of August 24 is before me and I will answer some of your statements in numbered paragraphs.

"1. You say, 'This name calling—Dr. Oxnham, 'the red bishop'—stoops very low for a Christian gentleman. This lumping of people who think liberally on social issues into the camp of commu-

nists is a very serious matter.'

"ANSWER: I do not want to think you are insincere, so I must conclude that you are very ignorant of the issues. If you think that referring to Dr. Oxnham as 'the red bishop' because he favors communism as against the American free enterprise system, the doctrine of Karl Marx instead of the doctrines of the Bible and historic Christianity on economic and social questions, then you do not

Although I am writing from Albany, New York, where I am in a revival campaign, please address all my mail to Wheaton, Illinois. Thus none will be lost, all will reach me most quickly and surely that way.

A Letter and a Sermon From India

This week you will find a message that will bless your heart, under the heading, "Is Jesus the First in Your Life?" This is written by a man who knows the Lord Jesus and knows the Word of God and has the breath of Heaven upon him. We were glad to use his message in THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

Now we want you to read his letter.

"Bethlehem'
"Near Mission Comp.
"Udipi, South Kanara
"Madras Presidency, India

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Though distance separates us the love of Christ unites. I herewith send a sermon and a letter for your prayerful consideration. Please print them in your paper only if you are guided. They are only a labour of love and no earthly string is attached to them. I wish to reap in eternity. I earn my daily bread as a teacher, and the rest of my time I use to His glory. In the school I take up Bible lessons to the Christians and non-Christians. I take up church services, camp and cottage meetings. There are hospital visits and street preachings also. God has used me mightily—an unworthy vessel though I am. There were conversions from Hinduism, and many souls have been led to Christ. Praise the Lord!

"Now this paragraph has nothing to do with the above one. I take you as my own brother in His service, and put before you my burning things. I am very much interested in your books. They have helped and guided me much in my daily work. I have now four of your books: (1) *The Soul-Winner's Fire*, (2) *Dance*, (3) *Prayer*, (4) *Your Sins Shall Find You Out* [Trailed by a Wild Beast]. How much I have been helped God alone knows. Don't think I am writing to please you. No, never, far from it. These are all sincere thoughts from the

know the facts in the case. Thursday, September 6, the Methodist Federation for Social Action met in the First Methodist Church in Evanston, north of Chicago. You probably know that Bishop Oxnham and five or six other bishops of the Methodist church are members of this subversive group. If you did not know it, it is time for you to know it. You ought to know also that this Methodist Federation for Social Action is labeled 'a communist front' by the Un-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives of Congress. This Federation passed a resolution calling for the seating of Red China in the United Nations. It went on record as favoring the repeal of the Smith Act under which the famous case of eleven communists was tried. The Smith Act makes it unlawful to become a member of an organization that advocates or encourages the forcible overthrow of government. But this Methodist Federation for Social Action wants communism, advocating the overthrow of the United States government by force, to be made legal instead of illegal. It also favored repeal

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Editor's Notes

depth of my heart. I want all of your books. I know God supplies the needs of His children for His glory. I want them only to better equip myself to His work. Your sermons will echo and re-echo wherever I go. You are an editor and you have enough of troubles and more. Will you please with all your heart pass this letter on into the hands of a man of faith and prayer? He can send me cheap editions and second-hand books. Rest assured I shall make the best use of them. Only a sincere one interested in evangelistic work need volunteer. Please remember that much rests upon your faithful effort.

"Your letter month is not over to us. I have only received the 8th (of June) issue. I humbly request you to send *Bloody Hands*, 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?' and *Ten Revival Choruses*. For the last, I wrote last year and you never sent it.

"There is a last request. I must thank you for sending me your paper free. You must not misunderstand me. I see you all trying to get more subscribers, and I remain a burden to you by not paying for the subscription. I want a Christian who could send theirs to me after reading them, regularly. Then I can get the full benefit without taxing anyone very much. Will you please write a request under my sermon if you only agree for the paper only. After much consideration I write this.

"I am only a volunteer to His work and have not undergone theological training. I can speak well in my mother tongue, but find it a little bit difficult to express in English. I may write in the future. I want your advice and helpful hints as my future guide. Please write where and what I am lacking in my sermon. May God bless you all and may you all bear much fruit in the future.

"Yours in His Service,"
(Signed) J. G. Soans

We are sending The Sword of the Lord for another year, and sending the books which he desired. I trust someone will help to pay for these as a good investment in a beloved preacher in far-off India.

Dowell Tells How to Build a Soul-Winning Church

In the Sword Conference on Revival and Soul Winning at Si-loam Springs, Arkansas, last summer, Rev. Bill Dowell brought some remarkable messages on

soul winning. I asked him to write out his message on "How to Build a Soul-Winning Church" and he has done so. His words are particularly authoritative because he himself has been blessed of God in the building of a tremendous soul-winning church in Springfield, Missouri. Last year, as I recall, about four hundred converts were baptized in this church, and the church has just built a tremendous auditorium to house the great crowds that wait on the ministry of this Spirit-filled man.

Another Heart-Moving Message From Dr. George W. Truett

Dr. George W. Truett, for forty-odd years pastor of the great First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, went to be with the Lord a few years ago. I heard him often in Texas, was a member of the Dallas Pastors' Conference with him for some time while a pastor in Dallas, Texas. The twenty-four revival sermons by Dr. Truett in the book, *A Quest for Souls*, are among his very best much better, I believe, than the sermons as revised and edited in recent years. By all means get the book if possible and read over and over again these great messages.

In Albany, New York, Union Revival

After a lovely two day's drive from Wheaton, in beautiful fall weather, with autumn colors glorious all about us, we arrived at Albany Saturday night about 6:30. Here the Christian Business Men's Committee and a number of churches are sponsoring a united revival campaign in the building of Emmanuel Baptist Church, one of the largest church auditoriums. In the first service Sunday afternoon, twenty-two pastors were present, I believe, and thus began what we earnestly pray to be a great revival. There has been no union revival campaign in Albany for the last thirty years. The larger churches generally do not believe in revivals. There are many handicaps. Many of the co-operating churches are so far away that they feel they cannot give up their Sunday night services. Yet there is a deep hunger, and we believe God will give a gracious revival, with many, many souls saved. We are guests in the Bible School next door to Emmanuel Church, with a private office set up for us and kindly hospitality on every hand. May God send His power!

Dr. Bob Jones Says:

I often meet people who say, "If I had as much money as so-and-so, I sure would make a contribution to God's work." I have found from my experience in dealing with people that if people don't make small contributions to God's work when they are just in average circumstances, they don't make big contributions to God's work if they are wealthy. Most of the money that is given to the cause of Jesus Christ is contributed by the average, everyday, faithful Christian. The older I get, the more appreciation I have of the average Christian people who in their hearts love the Lord Jesus Christ so much they want to help the cause and are willing even sometimes to sacrificially contribute to the Lord's work. We know in this day and time that there are many appeals being made and so many of our best Christian people do not know just where to put their money. I am glad that more and more of these Christians are becoming careful about how they invest their money for God. We ought to be careful. We try to be careful with any investments we make for ourselves, and God's money should be handled just as carefully as we handle the part we keep for our needs. I sincerely believe that we are offering you Christian people an opportunity to invest some money for God that will pay more different kinds of dividends than probably any money you could invest anywhere in the world. In Bob Jones University this year about eight hundred of our apparently three thousand students had to have some financial help in order to come to this institution and train for Christian

work. Some of these young people are going to be missionaries, some of them pastors, some evangelists, some of them teachers; and some of them are going into other kinds of work; and most of them are going to build Christian homes; and we sincerely believe that all of them will be soul winners. Now, if you help us with the Student Loan Endowment Fund we are raising, some of it will go into foreign missions, and some into home missions, and some of it into other kinds of Christian work; but it will all go straight into training young people; and practically all of them through all the years of their lives will be winning the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ. Bob Jones University puts its emphasis on soul winning. We are training young people to be all things to all men that by all means they may win some. Now, I want you Christian friends to seriously consider the appeals that we have been making, and we want you to invest in the Student Loan Endowment Fund. Some of you have already invested some of your money. We would like to have you consider an additional investment of some amount at this time. We are making a special appeal to you friends who have not so far helped us raise this money. Remember, the goal is \$1,000,000, and we have now almost \$600,000 of that amount. Please let us hear from you promptly, and please contribute some amount, and please keep praying for us at Bob Jones University. Thank you and God bless you.

BOB JONES, Founder
Bob Jones University
Greenville, S. C.
(Advertisement)

Is Jesus The First In Your Life?

By Johnness G. Soans

Near Mission Compound, Udipi, (South Kanara,) Madras Presidency, India.

"...make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son."—I Kings 17:13.

This story everybody knows. Ahab, the king of Samaria, became the second string to his more designing wife Jezebel who tempted Israel to worship Baal instead of the true God. As the result, there was neither dew nor rain for the full two and forty months.

Elijah, the man of God, went to Cherith where he was miraculously fed by ravens. There had been no rain in the land and the brook began to dry up. Elijah arose and went to Zarephath, in the land of Zidon. At the gate of the city he found a widow gathering sticks. "Fetch me . . . a little water in a vessel, that I may drink," requested the prophet; and as she was going, "bring me . . . a morsel of bread in thine hand," added he. With regret she had to tell her doleful tale. The widow had an only son. A handful of meal was in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse. She would prepare the last cake for the last meal and die. But the prophet said, "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son." The result we all know; with child-like faith she obeyed, thus earning God's blessing.

Here we see God's ways, and His ways are the best. Whether we stand against or bend our heads with implicit obedience, it does not vary. It stands there adamant even to the end of the ages. The man of God should be fed first and our needs be met later. God should become first in our lives and everything else must recede to the background. The Lord Jesus Christ should be glorified in our short span of life by putting first things first.

His absolute and indisputable claim never changed, even though the person to whom the servant of God went was a Zidonian woman. She had to provide him first, giving up the only thing she needed most. Foreign though she was to Jehovah and His dealings, she put her implicit faith in the unknown prophet and did exactly what she was bid. She boldly staked her last resource on the

counter of God and fully received His blessing in return—the last resource became the lasting resource. When God was given the first place even in the handful of meal and a little oil, that which she hoped "to eat for the last time and die" became the only source of sustenance throughout the famine, "as the meal wasted not; neither did the cruse of oil fail." To get His best we must give Him our best. To receive, we must give.

Jesus made it more clear and precise when He said in the sermon on the mount, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things [food and clothing] shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). If we are for Christ full one hundred per cent and seek His kingdom, we have to stop worrying for ourselves. Our discipleship not only demands renunciation, but recognition of His mighty hand. This is a mystery in Christianity, and nothing short of a consecrated life can understand it. To the worldly it is foolishness, but unto us it is the power of God "because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (I Cor. 1:25).

Some twenty years ago while I was yet a boy this truth came to me with a deeper meaning—"Christ first and everything added to it." I found a wholly consecrated man of God and placed before him my difficulties. What do you think he said? "There was a time when I was shivering at the bank instead of taking a deep dive on faith lines. Then a day came, thence I began to lead a life of faith instead of sight. From that day onward my undivided attention was given to him; and Christ became all in all—my other side of life I left safely in His

Double Play Credited to Nephew!

Sometimes on one double play in baseball two runners are put out. Well, here is a letter which tells how a small investment by one person led to two Christian homes being greatly blessed.

From Barnstable, Massachusetts, comes this encouraging word.

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Your paper has been a great spiritual help to my husband and I. My nephew had it sent to us. Now I'd like that you send it to my sister in Oregon, for the next 8 months. So many Bible truths have been made plain to us. We appreciate the stand you take against worldliness in the church, also modernism.

"Yours in Christ,"

(Signed) Mr. and Mrs. Bodeaux Barnstable, Massachusetts

Let this be a suggestion to you. Some of your own relatives would be much better Christians if they had sound revival spiritual reading, something to teach the Word of God, to inspire godly living, to help win souls. It might be you would start a chain of blessing that would never cease by sending THE SWORD OF THE LORD to someone in whom you are interested. Do it today! Subscription price, \$2.00 a year. Write SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois.

hands. Jesus never fails, though we frail human beings fail. Oh, the joy of such a life! Mutual understanding and exchange on Matthew 11:28-30. I gladly took His yoke on my shoulders and He my heavy burden. The ravens fed Elijah in the Old Testament, and Jesus fed the five thousand in the New Testament, but now I learn how He feeds me daily."

Day by day all down the centuries Jesus Christ has been binding men and women to Himself by love, just like Bhakt Sing, Daniel, Augustine and others. Dear brother, dear sister, have you felt His dynamic love in your life? Have you tested and found Him faithful? There is nothing so honored of God as a wholly consecrated life.

George Muller, the man of faith, has said, "I shall dedicate my life to exemplify to the world how much work can be done through faith and prayer." He not only said it, but lived it out, setting an example to many a Heaven-bound pilgrim—the power of faith and prayer. He started an orphanage and became the father of many destitutes and orphans. Many more gifted and educated men of that age have gone to forgetfulness but he, though dead, yet liveth.

One of the most moving things is John Bunyan's description of his intense agony felt when he made the choice. He had to choose between stopping his preaching and going to gaol. He had to spend his days in a dungeon on scanty food, a little water, and insufficient ventilation. But he did not brood over his sufferings. His main thought was about his wife and children. Who would provide for them at the time of his imprisonment? The parting with his family was as the pulling of the flesh from the bones. He could not think of his parting with his blind child who lay near and dear to his heart. In such a trying circumstance he chose the way of the cross. Fidelity to the Lord helped him to put first things first. He preached the gospel and went to prison. But the Master mysteriously looked after his family and provided its needs. There in the prison he resolved to write the beautiful book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which stands next to the Bible even to this day. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Ps. 91:1).

Dear friend, what has captured the first place in your heart? It does not take very long to find

My Christmas Gift List

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

Please send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to the following addresses for the time specified, at the rate of \$2.00 for each one-year subscription, or \$3.00 for 5 years. Please send a greeting card with the signature I have indicated.

NOTE: Please add 50 cents each per year for Canadian and foreign subscriptions. Please print!

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There is More Space on the Reverse side

out what it is. One day a Christian friend came to me and began to talk about politics. His eyes began to light up and he introduced communism as the only source of salvation for the starving and suffering India. Go to the merchant, and you will find out what he is wholly engrossed in. He would speak about market fluctuation—what to store and what not. The miser has his money and the worldly, their pleasures. Only the child of God has his eyes on the treasures in Heaven. What a profound truth it is when Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Dear brother, where do you lay up your treasure? Is it up there in Heaven or down here on earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal? The reason for so many suicides, broken hearts, and mental derangements in the world is that many corrupt things take the first place instead of Jesus. Dear friend, what is the pivot around which your whole life revolves? Is it wealth? Is it fame? Is it knowledge? Then Jesus will not make abode in your heart. Jesus was surely meek and gentle, but He was strong and uncompromising. He wants to be the Lord of all, or nothing. He wants the first place or no place at all. "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Luke 16:13).

In Matthew we see a rich young man who paid allegiance both to the Lord and mammon. The Master was plain and simple in His reply: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me" (Matt. 19:21). But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. He found no compromise and there was no via media between the two. Jesus touched the apple of his eye unhesitatingly. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

At another time a separate young man, fired with some ideals, came to Jesus and said he wished to follow Him. "...suffer

me first to go and bury my father" was his legitimate excuse. The unhesitating retort of Jesus was, "Let the dead bury their dead" (Matt. 8:22). The father was still living and the son wanted to wait till his father died in order to be free to do the Lord's work. In such a difficult situation, Christ did not leave this disciple in any doubt as to what his duty was. There is but one loyalty and that is to Himself alone. "He that loveth father and mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:37). For Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt. 16:24).

Men always forget that they are pilgrims and sojourners in this world. They cling to the world as if eternity clings to it. Their heart is set upon the treasures and pleasures of the world; just like the rich man who pulled down his barns to build greater ones and said, "Soul thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." But God said otherwise: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20). So is everyone laying up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God. Dear brother, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Eccles. 12:1).

The young man who left out Jesus sorrowfully and lived entirely for the world had also a day when his soul was required of him. What do you think—though not recorded in the Word of God—his state of mind would be when the inevitable time of parting came, when he had to bid goodbye to his riches forever? He had neither the wealth he coveted much, nor the Master he refused to follow. Death may rob us of our money. Death may rob us of our knowledge. We will have to leave our beloved ones behind. But the one thing we take with us is "the treasures in heaven." May the Spirit lead you all into the truth.

Here I cannot but borrow an
(Continued on page 5)

APPALLING FOOD SHORTAGE IN ISRAEL



Rev. Jacob Peltz

There is very acute suffering due to hunger and malnutrition in the Holy Land. One Hebrew Christian writes as follows:

"My wife and I are both fervent believers and servants of the Lord Jesus. We came to Israel from England two years ago to be near the place where Christ will descend upon Jerusalem to take up His glorious reign. It is well known that we are Hebrew Christians because we tell of the true Messiah and try to bring salvation to all who will lend an ear. For this we are enduring persecution and social boycott. I find it hard to get work. My sole support for wife and child comes from the poorly paid wages of an occasional day's hard work. My wife has lost weight and is weak and we both are undernourished beyond recognition.

"Please send us some essential and sustaining food which we lack so completely. May the Lord make you see the position we lonely Hebrew Christians are in amongst thousands who are rejecting our Saviour."

"OUR TOWER OF STRENGTH"

Another Jewish Believer in our Lord writes:

"I am very grateful to your CARE food parcel just received. The food situation gets worse here from day to day. I have now so little strength that I can work only a few days a week and that with hardship. We are praying and witnessing increasingly. Our faith has never been as strong as it is now. The Lord is our Tower of Strength and without Him I would have broken long ago."

This Hebrew Christian brother implores us to pray for him and others in their critical plight. How can we do otherwise when our Lord bids us feed the hungry? (Matt. 25:40).

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LITTLE SERMONS

By Evangelist Bob Jones, D.D., LL.D.

Preach the Word

"Preach the Word." That is what Paul charged Timothy "before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom." How preachers need to heed this injunction today! What the people need is the Word of God. They do not need the philosophy of men nor the wisdom of the world. There are millions of voices crying out to be heard, but no man can speak with authority unless he preaches the Word.



"Preach the Word," Paul said to Timothy. Never mind the attitude of the crowds toward the Word. "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts they shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears. They will turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned into fables." It is the preacher's business to preach the Word whether the people want to hear the Word or not. Preachers are not told to save men. They are told to evangelize men. The church has orders to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Whether the Gospel is accepted or rejected is "up to the people." The church has marching orders: "Preach the Word"—regardless of consequences!

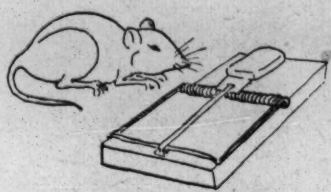
The true preacher of the Word must in this day endure affliction. The world which is organized under Satanic direction is against the Word. The world wants its own teachers, not God-sent teachers. "They shall heap to themselves teachers." The unregenerated world desires to select teachers that will say what the people want to hear. The true minister of the Gospel is commissioned by Almighty God to tell people what God wants them to hear. The message of the Church

is not some message hatched out in the brain of some philosopher, or written by someone with a judicial mind. The message is divine. The message of the Bible differs from all the messages of all leaders of all ages. All religions of the world say, "Do and live." The religion of the Bible says, "Live and do." The philosophies of men teach that men can save themselves. The Word teaches that all men are miserable, helpless, lost, Hell-bound sinners and that their only hope of salvation comes not from a power within, but from a Power without them.

"In my hand no price I bring" is the cry of a soul that understands what the Word says and means concerning lost men. The one who says, "In my hand some price I bring" does not know the Word. "Preach the Word." Preach it on street corners; preach it in the churches; preach it in court houses; preach it in training camps; preach it in the home; preach it abroad; preach it everywhere; preach the Word—God's Word, not man's word. Preach what God says, not what men think or want or hope. There is famine in the land. It is not a famine for lack of physical bread. It is a famine of the Word. May God help the preachers to do what they are ordered to do—"Preach the Word."

The Christian's Delight

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." That is the second verse of the first Psalm. This is the secret of happiness. Bread for our physical bodies may be taken away from us, but no one can rob us of the "Bread of



WATCH YOUR ADDRESS LABEL AND RENEW EARLY

Life." We may be put behind prison walls where we will cry with swollen tongue and parched lips for water, but no one can take away from us the "Water of Life." Our clothes may be torn from our bodies and we may shiver with cold caused from the blowing of winter winds, but no one can rob us of the robe of righteousness, which robe we shall some day wear down streets of gold under a cloudless sky in God's heavenly city and our eternal home. Our backs may be bloody from the lashes of human hatred, but no one can take from us the healing which we have from the stripes of Him who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. We may be torn from loved ones and friends and taken away from the presence of those whom we love, but no one can rob us of His presence who declared, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."

Wicked men may make us promises which they never keep, but no wicked man can rob us of the security of His promise who declared, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall never pass away." We may be removed far from the sympathetic ears of friends and loved ones who would eagerly listen to our appeal for help, but neither men nor demons can take us from His listening ear who said, "Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do." We may be torn from our earthly homes, but no one can rob us of our mansion in the sky to which we hold a title signed by His blood and which He Himself has prepared for us. All the "delights" which unregenerated men may long to have may be taken from us as we travel the earthly road, but no one can rob us of our delight in His law.

Psalm 23

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." This is the language of the sheep. It is not the language of the shepherd. The sheep does not say, "I can take care of myself. I am not helpless. I can stand on my own feet." The sheep says, "The Lord is my shepherd and He is such a wonderful shepherd I shall not want." No man can take care of himself.

Our Shepherd must supply the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the protecting care without which we could not live, even for one moment. A sheep is supposed to know the voice of its shepherd and is supposed to follow wherever the shepherd leads. We who try to say out of sincere hearts, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want," should be willing to go where He would have us go, to do what He would have us do, and to be what He would have us be. We should lie down in the green pastures which He provides and drink from the "still waters" of His grace. We should not fear even the valley of the shadow of death, knowing that we are sustained by our wonderful Shepherd. We should have no fear of our enemies but should eat peacefully in the pastures of His providing even in the presence of our enemies. We should not despair when we are wounded by our enemies, knowing that He anoints our head with oil and that there is always a bountiful supply of His healing grace. "My cup," which is the cup of His providing, "runneth over," should be the song of a Christian's heart. We Christians, now with the world war-torn, should be an example to discouraged and depressed men. We should be singing our song of victory, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Norway Minister Blessed by Sword

From Mosby, in Norway, comes a letter from Pastor Carl W. Berg, which we want to share with SWORD OF THE LORD readers. "Dear Dr. John R. Rice:

"When I, in 1949, was in the U.S.A. preaching the gospel—mostly to our Scandinavian people—I was also visiting Huntington, West Virginia, and had some services in the Baptist church where my friend, William Fox, is pastor.

"He ordered your paper for me and I received it in Norway for some time but now it has stopped.

"I certainly enjoyed reading your paper. It is indeed The Sword of the Lord. It was also a great help and inspiration to me in the work for the Lord, so I do miss it greatly.

"I understand that the Lord is blessing your ministry in a wonderful way and that you are sending the paper and some literature to many missionaries and preachers, free of charge.

"Would it be possible for you, Dr. Rice, to send the paper to me? I will appreciate it very much.

"I am a former graduate of the Moody Bible Institute and am now in Norway preaching the gospel in different cities and the Lord is blessing the work with the salvation of souls.

"Would also be very thankful if you will send me your booklet, 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?' Hoping to hear from you.

"I am yours in Him for the salvation of souls."

(Signed) Pastor Carl W. Berg
 Mosby Kr. Sand S. Norway
 Will you help us in this Ministers and Missionaries Subscrip-

tion Fund, to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to missionaries, ministers, native Christian workers, and other such full-time Christian workers who need it, but often cannot well pay for it? If so, send your checks or gifts to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, designated for the Ministers and Missionaries Subscription Fund. Help us in this good work. Thousands of godly preachers would be tremendously blessed by the paper.

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Is Jesus the First in Your Life?

(Continued from page 3)

illustration from Moody's anecdotes. When a young man left home, his mother gave him this text: "Seek first the kingdom of God." He paid little heed and said that he would do it when his aversion was gratified. He went from one village to another and got nothing. One Sunday he went into the village church and was surprised to hear the minister give out the text: "Seek first the kingdom of God." The text went down to the bottom of his heart, and he thought that his mother's prayer was following him. He went out very uncomfortable. Next Sunday he went into another church and was surprised to hear the minister read the same text: "Seek first the kingdom of God." Though troubled very much, he said, "No, I will first get wealthy." He stopped going to the church for a few months; but the first place of worship he went into he heard a third minister preaching a sermon from the same text. After a time his mother died, but the text kept coming to his mind, and he resolved to keep away

from the church. He did keep his word.

After some years that man was in a lunatic asylum in Boston and to everyone who went there he used to tell, "Young man, young woman, seek first the kingdom of God." His reason was gone, but the text was there. It had sunk into his soul; —it had burned down deep. Oh, may the Spirit of God burn the text deep into your heart now!

There was a day in my life when the lowly servant of God, Mr. George G. Soans, said "Give first place to Christ in your life." "Don't go emptyhanded, Johnny," he used to say, "and meet your Saviour so. He has laid down His life for you, and what have you done in return?" The quicksands under his feet have already run out, but the words lie burning in my heart. Don't go emptyhanded! At least have one trophy to lay at His feet! Dear brother, dear sister, at least one trophy to lay at His feet! "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:3). Amen.

They Need The Sword



SERVICEMEN

It seems early to think about Christmas gifts, but it is almost late! That is, if you are planning to send Christmas gifts to any servicemen overseas. You should act quickly. We know of no better gift for boys in the service, and particularly overseas, than THE SWORD OF THE LORD. So many letters have come to us from men who found it their chief source of spiritual food and inspiration. Here are some letters we have received which make us know that is true.

Just last week, this letter came: "I am in the United States Air Force serving in the Philippine Islands at present. I thought I would give you a little of my background so you would know how I came across your paper in the Far East.

"I was led to Christ and born again through missionaries here in the Islands. While visiting their house I saw your paper and read it through. I would like to say I think it is the best Christian publication I have ever read. It is really a challenge and help to me as I am beginning my Christian life."

From Ft. Lewis, Wash.: "I will write you to let you know that I sure do enjoy reading your paper. It has been a great help to me; and I thank God for every one of you. I am a young minister. I have been drafted in the Army. It is hard sometimes in here to live for Christ, but He is with me. I know your paper will be a great help to me and may God bless you all."

A sergeant writes, "I feel that I should write to you and tell you how much I have enjoyed your paper. As a soldier overseas, it has comforted me more than I can tell."

Many comments like this come to us. "I would like to write my thanks for THE SWORD OF THE LORD," says a naval corpsman. "I know that each one is a great blessing to me, and not only me but also to my buddies as I pass it on to them. Several boys have told me how much they enjoyed it."

A technical sergeant writes from Camp Kilmer, N. J.: "I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for THE SWORD OF THE LORD. It has been a source of greatest blessing, strength, and courage since I have been in the Army. I have found myself led into new fields of Bible study and thought as I have read the gospel messages presented in this paper."

Another in active service writes, "May I take this occasion to again express my heartfelt appreciation of your generosity in sending me two copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD each week so faithfully? It is impossible for me to adequately convey to you through the medium of words the measure of comfort and inspiration I have derived from reading this unique little magazine. You may rest assured, after this conflict has finally ended, that I will be numbered among the missionaries of THE SWORD OF THE LORD."

How many first become acquainted with THE SWORD in the service! Another says, "I certainly want THE SWORD OF THE LORD always with me. It has been a great help to me while I have been a member of the Armed Forces and I can never thank you enough for all that it has done for me."

A corporal in Camp Lee, Va., writes: "Truly I receive a blessing from reading THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Each and every time I receive the paper it inspires me to live a better life for Christ and want to tell others about Him. As I look back, I often wonder how I did without it and the wonderful messages it holds."

A seaman at the U. S. Naval Barracks, Newport News, Va., writes, "This week I received my first copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD since I had subscribed to it. I received such a blessing and help from reading your paper that I want to recommend it to all my Christian friends."

The problems so hard for men in service are sometimes answered by this Christian paper. A Chief Petty officer says, "As you can see I am still in the Navy at the time of this letter. It isn't easy for a Chief in the Navy to live for Him, as He said 'with man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

A soldier reader comments, "One thing that has helped me very much is THE SWORD OF THE LORD. I have been taking it for about a year. The marvelous sermons in it are a constant inspiration to me. In fact on the first of January, I started keeping a file on it for future reference and for future inspiration."

From the Office of the Chaplain, Tilton General Hospital Annex, Fort Dix, N. J.: "Enclosed you will find my renewal for your fine paper. I enjoy reading the paper very much and have found it very helpful in many ways.

After I read it I pass it on to one of the patients here and he praises it very highly."

All of us are concerned with the moral and spiritual welfare of our boys in the service, and rightly so. They deserve our special interest and our prayers, and they need all the help they can get in living good, Christian lives in the service environment. The need for good reading material is acute, as many dispatches from foreign countries indicate. We must do our part for these boys. What more effective way could we help them—what other way could we bring them a blessing each week—than by sending gift subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

Just think of the inspiration it will be to your serviceman, coming each week like a ray of sunshine, bringing gospel messages and answers to Bible questions, gripping Christian reading.

A subscription to a serviceman costs only \$2.00 a year. Christmas orders should be sent soon, so we can send them a Christmas card notifying them of your gift. But don't let procrastination rob you of the blessing and joy you can have; and don't let delay steal the comfort and blessing of THE SWORD OF THE LORD from the servicemen you love. Fill in the blank today, and let us rush through their subscriptions. If you send it now, they will receive your gift card well in advance of the Christmas mailing rush. There is some boy, somewhere, who ought to receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD as a gift from you. Don't let him down!

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WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editors

The Lost Creek, Kentucky, area has just experienced a real revival under the leadership of Evangelist Ray Cutchin of Portsmouth, Virginia. For twelve days the evangelist preached in the morning at the Riverside Christian Training School chapel and at night in one of the nearby churches. The president of the Training School reports about eighty confessions and rededications, and says "The brother proved to be a real firebrand for the Lord and the saving of lost souls. His zeal is boundless, his messages very convicting. At one of our chapel services thirty-four young folk came forward weeping their way into the kingdom. I never saw such conviction of sin and rededication of life as was seen there that morning. . . At another chapel service, there were about twelve. . ."

Rev. J. T. Swinson of Faith Baptist Church, Burlington, N. C. completed a successful revival in the church which his brother pastors, the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church near Morganton, N. C. 126 were baptized besides those who came into the church by statement and letter. Brother Swinson adds: "I have been a lover of THE SWORD OF THE LORD since the early forties. In addition to my pastorate, I do quite a bit of evangelistic work, and the paper is a great help to me."

Sword Staff evangelist, J. H. Melton of Blytheville, Arkansas, completed three years in full-time evangelistic work September 1. He sums up the last twelve months as follows: "In the last twelve months I was privileged to serve in twenty revival meetings in Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, Illinois, Alabama, Indiana, North Carolina and Florida. In these twenty revivals there were 630 professions of faith and additions to the churches." Then he adds: "I am anxiously anticipating the busiest and most fruitful year of my life in 1952."

Because of Evangelist Melton's plain stand on secret and fraternal orders, he has encountered opposition, but the Lord continues to marvelously supply opportunities to preach the gospel to this Spirit-filled evangelist. His next two meetings are as follows: Brookville, Pennsylvania, October 28-November 11; New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, November 12-December 2.

September 10-24 Evangelist Homer Britton was in a campaign with the Grace Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Tennessee, where Rev. Mahlon Thompson is pastor. The evangelist reports 25 decisions for Christ, including salvation and church membership. Immediately following this campaign, Brother Britton went to the Norwood Park Baptist Church in Chicago, Rev. Lawrence Pearson, pastor. The report for the first week of this campaign shows about 20 decisions for salvation and church membership. The Norwood church is in a Catholic neighborhood and Brother Britton reports a number of Roman Catholics saved. While ministering at night at the Norwood Park Church, Brother Britton had noon-day broadcasts for the Christian Business Men's Committee. The second week of the campaign he was guest speaker on the "Bread of Life" broadcast, radio station WMBI.

The evangelist's schedule takes him the next few weeks to Palmetto, Florida, Gillette Baptist Church; in the New Orleans Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida; Felix Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky; Hoopston, Illinois; Bethel Baptist Church, Morristown, Tennessee.

Evangelist J. Oscar Wells reports a time of blessing during a recent series of meetings in

the Suck Springs Baptist Church, Bedford, Virginia, Rev. T. E. Weringo, pastor. There were 12 first-time decisions and 40 rededications.

Evangelist Clifford Lewis of Winona Lake, Indiana, conducted the Christian Crusade in the Municipal Auditorium in Loveland, Colorado, August 5-19. The Crusade was sponsored by a small group of Christian business men, with the cooperation of a few pastors. This was the first city-wide evangelistic effort in the city for 15 years. The crowds averaged over 500 nightly for the two weeks. There were 68 recorded conversions and 30 rededications, besides a large number of young people who responded for full-time Christian service. Evangelist Lewis writes: "We are humbly thankful that 98 people have responded to the gospel invitation. It shows that it is possible to sponsor a campaign, even with a small group of laymen, in cooperation with a few of the pastors."

October 7 Evangelist Charles E. Boren of Winona Lake, Indiana, finished a two-week campaign at the Baden Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri, the second campaign the evangelist has held in this church where Rev. John W. Peters is the pastor. There were many decisions for consecration and salvation, the evangelist reports. October 8 he began at the St. Louis Park Baptist Church, Rev. George Lamken, pastor. Brother Boren encloses subscriptions in his letter and says, "I am enclosing a check for THE SWORD OF THE LORD subscriptions taken at Baden Baptist. I thank God for this privilege of having part in this ministry of getting the gospel into the homes of Christians and especially the unsaved through THE SWORD, which is truly America's Foremost Evangelistic Weekly."

The Hyman Appelman Campaign which just closed in Richmond, California, in the 4000 seat Memorial Hall, broke all previous attendance records for such meetings, is reported. This revival was sponsored by over 30 churches of the city—Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Nazarene, Lutheran, Evangelical Free, Assembly of God, Christian and Missionary Alliance, the Christian Business Men's Committee, and others. A report from the general committee states that the finances were over-subscribed, leaving hundreds of dollars in the treasury.

The 1200 persons dealt with in the inquiry rooms included 800 who made first-time professions of faith in Christ, and hundreds of these have already united with churches in the Bay Area. Among this great group were Jews, Roman Catholics, Negroes, and Orientals who came to the altar in response to the invitation.

In personal conferences with the evangelist the assistant manager of the Auditorium was saved. Subsequent conferences saw the salvation of the president of a local C.I.O. Union and a Portuguese Roman Catholic who is owner of the largest pipe yard in the city.

A most exceptional piece of work was accomplished by Singer John Troy in the great crowds in Gospel song and in conducting the large chorus choir.

Dr. Appelman has been invited to come for a month's Campaign in Berkeley, California, home of the University of California with its 30,000 students.

Evangelist G. Covell Keenum reports a time of great blessing during a series of meetings in the River Avenue Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana. There were 93 conversions, 66 rededications, and 26 family altars established

Share YOUR Sword

during these meetings. The Rev. Robert Blake is pastor.

There were twenty-six saved, forty-seven rededications, and thirty-one family altars in eleven days of meetings at Grace Baptist Temple, Roanoke, Virginia, with Douglas Winn as the evangelist. The Sunday School record attendance was broken during the revival.

Results of the Billy Graham campaign, Hollywood, California: Decisions for Christ averaged almost 100 nightly; nightly attendance of more than 7,500. The evangelist is now in a campaign at Greensboro, North Carolina (October 14-November 11), where a 10,000 seat tabernacle has been erected specially for the meeting.

Record-Breaking Crowds Attending Jack Shuler in Grand Rapids

The "Key to Life" evangelistic campaign, sponsored by the Christian Business Men's Committee of Grand Rapids, wound up its fourth week with record-breaking crowds for Grand Rapids. The stadium officials stated that never in their history had they seen such crowds. The fourth Sunday saw over 8,000 people crowded into an auditorium seating 7,000. The total attendance at both afternoon and evening services was 13,500, the largest crowd to gather on a Sunday for any event in the history of western Michigan. The weather was against such crowds, with a cold driving rain falling during the entire afternoon and evening. The campaign by popular demand is continuing into the fifth week.

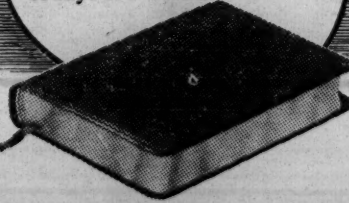
Jack Shuler, the fiery young California evangelist, has been taken into the hearts of the people with his sincere direct approach. So far over 250 people have made clear-cut, first-time decisions of acceptance of faith in Christ as their personal Saviour. Equally as many have rededicated their lives to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Evangelist Dolphus Price Blessed in Cannelton, Indiana

We have a good letter from Rev. Frank E. Borich, pastor of the Seventh Street Baptist Church, Cannelton, Indiana, about a gracious revival led by Evangelist Dolphus L. Price, new

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SWORD OF THE LORD Evangelist. The revival started in the church building, overflowed into Community Hall. It began as a two week's campaign, but was continued the third week and should have gone longer but for previous commitments. The impact of the revival was area-wide, with many notorious sinners converted. Other churches in Indiana and Kentucky cooperated. The Tennessee Temple Brass Quartet came to help in the closing week. The community, dominated by Catholics and liquor people, saw more than one hundred decisions for Christ. Thirty-one were baptized into the Seventh Street Baptist Church and others went to other churches, Methodist and Baptist.

The pastor writes that there were many unusual manifestations as well as great victories. Some persons went insane, others died suddenly, and the ministers were called out day and night to people stricken with conviction and sometimes with sudden sickness, as the Spirit of God dealt with a wicked community.

The pastor says about Evangelist Dolphus Price, "We praise the Lord for a preacher like Price, for his witness and his testimony and especially for his willingness to work. We put in twenty hour days for three weeks and held two all-night prayer meetings (not shift work prayer meetings, but ALL night). God gloriously blessed every effort."

Evangelist Dolphus Price begins with the SWORD OF THE LORD staff regularly in January. We think

he has one date available the first half of December.

Vinton, Louisiana, Has Successful Revival

Evangelist G. P. Comer of Dallas, Texas, closed a fine meeting in Vinton, Louisiana, September 23, writes Rev. J. W. Mayne, Pastor of the First Methodist Church. This was Evangelist Comer's second meeting in Vinton, Louisiana.

There were 30 conversions and reclamations with a large number of rededications; 50 pledging to tithe, 9 joining the church, 64 pledging to erect family altars, 21 young people dedicating themselves for life service, 1,500 chapters read in the Bible, with a genuine spirit of revival among the church. There was fine cooperation between the Baptist and Methodist churches in Vinton during the revival. Evangelist Comer urges loyalty to the church and the entire church program.

Evangelist Comer in Cleveland, Texas

Evangelist G. P. Comer closed a community-wide tent revival in Cleveland, Texas, on September 2, with 60 conversions and reclamations, 12 additions to the church, 42 pledging to tithe, 57 pledging to erect family altars, 24 young people dedicating themselves for Christian service, and 2,888 chapters read in the Bible, according to Rev. Roy Gibbs, Pastor of the First Methodist Church under whose auspices the meeting was conducted.

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Why Do Souls Go Away?

(Continued from page 2)

tragical misuse, the desperate waste, of their highest influence? One waits for another, and one acts because of another, or one does not act because another does not, and all through the social order the fear of man is one of the ravaging wastes of the highest influence that comes to human life.

They tell us that in the capital city of one of the older States, in the long ago, a marvelous meeting was led by that eminent American evangelist, Charles G. Finney, probably the ablest evangelist that America ever saw. He preached there some three months, and thousands came to Christ. When he was preaching there one night, the story goes that there slipped into the great audience to hear him the Chief Justice of the highest court of New York State. The learned Justice came out of sheer curiosity to hear a plain, pungent, powerful speaker. It was not his custom to go to church. Not for years had he been at any public religious service, and yet this evening the preacher brought his message to bear on the conscience of this man, taking for his text: "No man liveth to himself," and when the minister had finished his message, he said: "Now, I ask, appealing to your judgment and your conscience"—that is Christ's appeal always—to men's judgments and to men's consciences—His religion does not need any other kind of appeal—when the minister had finished his appeal, he said: "Now, is some

man's judgment convinced, and is his conscience searched by the truth spoken tonight, and will he, for his own sake, and for the sake of everybody else whom he may influence, make his public surrender to Christ?"

And down the long aisle came the Chief Justice, to make his confession of Christ. When he took the minister's hand, the Justice said: "If you allow me, I should like even now to turn and speak some words to this waiting audience." And facing them, the dignified Justice said: "If I have any influence over anybody, I beg him to do as I have done, to yield life and all, utterly and now, to Christ." And he called for God's forgiving mercy, that he himself had so long delayed to make that great surrender. It is said that many lawyers at the bar, there assembled in that vast audience, came down every aisle, and stood around the great minister and Chief Justice, and said to the Judge: "O sir, because you have come, and because of your appeal, we, too, will make our surrender to Christ." What if the great Judge had not come?

O my soul, I know the man, and you know him, who has not come, and yet, because he has not, there shelter behind him others, who perhaps will continue thus to hide behind him as long as he shall stay away from Christ.

Through Doubts and Questions Concerning Religion

Why do people go away from Jesus? Full many a time they go away from Him, through capacious doubts and questions concerning religion. Many people ask, What if this and that be not so? What if the Bible be not trustworthy? What if Christ be not divine? What if there be no immortality for the soul? What if there be no heaven for Christ's friend, and no hell for those who will not have Christ? What if those things be not so? And with question marks like that, they turn away from the vital verities of faith, and miss the way of life. Do I speak this midday hour to some man or woman who is in the grip of some serious religious doubt? Then I call to you, do not trifle with that doubt. Probe that doubt, I pray you, to its very depth. Superficial dealing with doubts in the realm of religion is utterly inexcusable. Well has some one said that "doubt is the agony of some earnest soul, or the trifling

About the Author

During the more than half century of his ministry, the voice of George W. Truett was heard around the world. He preached at various times in most of the world's great capitals, and from his pastor's study and pulpit in Dallas' First Baptist Church for forty-seven years, his influence and fame spread to make secure his place as one of the truly great souls and Christian leaders of the Twentieth Century.

He served as President of the Southern Baptist Convention and of the Baptist World Alliance. The sermon given here was preached in a revival campaign in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1917. Dr. Truett died about seven years ago.

of some superficial fool." Do not trifle with your doubts. You have too much at stake, if you have doubts, in this lofty realm of religion, to go along carelessly with such doubts. Doubt is caused in various ways and comes from various sources. There is the doubt of the head. Nathanael had such doubt. "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" he asked, and the answer was given him: "Come and see," and he came and saw.

There is the doubt of the heart. Some disappointment comes, beating us into the dust. Some poignant sorrow comes to blind us, to smite us and to check us. John the Baptist had such doubt. Those fine plans and hopes that swept through his mind and heart seemed all crushed as he lay there in the jail, and he sent some of his men to ask the pitiful question of Jesus: "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" Be patient with somebody in doubt, when the dark and cloudy day is on, when the black Friday presses down upon the spirit with its fearful pressure. But I have come to believe, my fellow-men, that doubt is caused by a wrong life more than by anything else in all the world. Time and again when I have come into close quarters with the man who spoke out his doubts and paraded them and defended them, I have found on careful inquiry, full many a time, that underneath and behind that doubt, and evidently occasioning that doubt, was some wrong life. If a man will come with right attitude in the sight of God, he shall be delivered from every doubt, which leads me to call your attention to that great challenge Jesus has given.

Notice it: "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God." That is as broad as the race. That is as comprehensive as hu-

manity. "If any man willeth to do the will of God, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God." Let any human being, no matter what the question, what the fear, what the doubt, what the difficulty, assume a perfectly honest attitude toward God, saying: "I want light, and if thou wilt give it, no matter how, I will follow it," such person surely shall be brought into the light. Time and again you have seen, as I have seen, that challenge of Jesus frankly accepted and frankly proved, and men have been brought out of the darkness into the glorious liberty and light of the children of God.

I was in an Eastern city some years ago for some two weeks in a daily mission, and every evening when I would finish my message, I said, as was their custom: "If there are interested men and women, who would tarry behind for personal dealings touching personal religion, they will pass through this door into the smaller auditorium, and the rest may go while we are singing the last hymn." I stood there at the door, to greet the people as they passed into the smaller auditorium for more careful and for closer personal dealings, and along with the men who came this particular evening, there came an attractive looking man some thirty-six or thirty-eight years of age, and he tarried at the door to speak with me, fairly trembling as he did so, and yet putting on a brave face. He said to me as he tarried there at the door: "Well, sir, I do not believe a word you said tonight."

I replied: "Then, pray, why do you tarry? My invitation was for serious people. My invitation was for men and women in earnest, for those with a desire deep and true to find light and to get help. Why do you tarry?"

"Oh," he said, "I thought I would like to see you at close range, and to hear what you said to these men in this room, and therefore I have come along."

I felt that I could see underneath all that brave exterior an interest deeper than he was willing at all for me to know, and I said: "You tarry, and when the others are gone, then I should like to have some words with you alone."

And so he did, and when the other service was finished, I had him alone, and as I sat beside him I asked him: "What brought you into this place? What gave you these doubts? Whence came all this uncertainty in your spirit concerning religion?"

He told me a story that I have neither the time nor the inclination here to repeat. He was the son of a minister in old Virginia. He was reared like a boy ought to be reared, and yet he had got far away from all that rearing, having been absent from home some fifteen years.

Then I said to him: "If these things I preach to you tonight are true, wouldn't you like to know the truth of it all?"

He made quick response: "Certainly, I should like to know the truth of it all."

Then I said, "You can know it. Here is the challenge of Jesus: 'If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God.'" I said, "Now as I bow my head, I will speak to your father's God and to my God, and I will ask Him just to lead you on, and to fill you with desire and purpose to follow His leading." And when I had finished the prayer I said, as we were bowed there at our chairs, "Let us remain bowed, and you try for a moment to pray."

He started back and said: "Why, man, I would not know how to begin. I have not tried even in a dozen years."

Think of a man's going a dozen years without calling on God! It seems impossible. "I would not know how to begin," he said. I answered: "Then I will frame a sentence for you, like I would frame it for my little child, and you say it after me." And so I did, and he repeated it, and I framed a second sentence, and he repeated that, and a third sentence, and he repeated that, and then I paused and said: "Prayer, sir, is the sanest thing in the world. Prayer is the out-

cry of a little, needy, finite, mortal being, to a great infinite, omniscient, omnipotent, all powerful, all merciful Being. Tell Him what you would like. Tell Him like you would tell a man something you should hasten to tell him, without any reserve."

And then, timidly and tremblingly and haltingly he began his prayer. In a moment or two his words came faster. In a moment or two his sentences rushed like a torrent. He was confessing his sins. He was bewailing his dreadful decline, and memory was burning like fire, and it blazed and burned, as he recalled the old home, with the family prayer, and the father as a preacher, and the mother singing the simple songs of faith. And then he went on and said: "I remember, Lord, the last sermon I heard good father preach. He preached from that text, the cry of the publican, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.'" He said: "That is my prayer. Be merciful to me, a sinner. I give up to thee. Help thou a helpless sinner!" And then he was still, and then in a moment more he was on his feet, and I looked up at him and waited for him to make his pronouncement, and then he looked down earnestly at me, with his outstretched hand, and said: "I have found the light!"

Of course he had found the light. Any man on the earth who will assume the right attitude toward Jesus shall be brought into the light.

My indictment against the skeptic who prates against the things of God is that he will not be candid about it and go deep enough. Any man in the world, doubter, skeptic, atheist, materialist, whoever he is, who will assume a perfectly candid and obedient attitude toward God, shall surely be brought into the light.

Through the Power of Sensual Enjoyments

Why do people go away from Jesus? Full many a time they go away from Him through the power of sensual enjoyments. There are two Scriptures that set forth that truth. Here they are: "The pleasures of sin for a season," and this other: "Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." Through the power of sensual enjoyment, full many a time men and women miss the upward way and go the downward way to doom and death. And yet this world has in it nothing that can really satisfy the ache of the human heart.

That brilliant Frenchman, Sabatier, was right when he said: "Man is incurably religious." And then the Bible comes on, with its revealing statement, telling us that God hath set eternity in the human heart, and therefore nothing less than the eternal can satisfy the human heart. Temporal things, no matter how many, cannot satisfy the human heart.

*This world can never give
The bliss for which men sigh.
'Tis not the whole of life to live,
Nor all of death to die.*

*Beyond this vale of tears
There is a life above,
Unmeasured by the flight of
years,
And all that life is love.*

Nothing short of the infinite and the eternal can satisfy any human heart.

Through the Fearful, Fateful Power of Procrastination

Why do people go away from Christ? Full many a time they go away from Him through the simple, fearful, fateful power of procrastination. They tell us that procrastination is the thief of time, and so it is, but, oh, it is so much more than that. Procrastination is the thief of souls! All about us are men and women who intend somewhere, sometime, to focus their thoughts on the things of God, and to say "yes" to the call of Christ, and yet through the power of procrastination they are hurried on and daily lulled the more deeply to sleep, and the conscience is deadened, and the days go by and the highest things are lost. All about us there are men and women who, when we

(Continued on page 10)

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A Soul-Winning Church

(Continued from page 1)

tizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and third, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded." This is God's plan for the church and we should not add to it nor take from it.

I say without reservation to you preachers and Christian workers that every church can be a soul-winning church. Christ intended it to be so, and, as head over all things to the church, stands ready to make it so, when a church is ready to follow Him in all things.

I would like to mention five things that I feel are necessary in the building of a great soul-winning church.

A Soul-Winning Ministry

First, there must be a soul winning ministry. And I mean by that not only fervent, evangelistic preaching by the preacher, but he himself must set the example in personal soul winning. Sometimes one hears a preacher say, "I am so busy with my duties as a pastor that I do not have time to go calling on the unsaved." My answer to you is, your primary duty as a pastor is to win souls, and second, if you are too busy to do personal calling on the unsaved, you are too busy, and you had better cut off some of the duties of lesser importance. The fact of the business is, most pastors who have that attitude, to put in plain words, are just too lazy to go out from door to door and win the lost to Christ or else they are so backslidden that they have lost their burden for souls. Come on preachers, you might as well admit it. But my friends, hear me today: you will never be able to lead your people to become earnest soul winners unless you lead them by your own example. Oh, how we need a new fire in the ministry today that will make soul winners of us preachers!

Training For Soul Winners

The second thing I would like to mention is that there should be a place in the activities of the church for the training of personal workers. We are prone to do the work of the Lord in a slouchy, haphazard way, but, my friends, when we see the importance of the great work we are in and that we are the ambassadors of Christ standing in Christ's stead beseeching men to be reconciled to God, we can see the importance of the very best training we can get to help us to know how to deal with the unsaved. This training, of course, would consist of learning what Scriptures to use in dealing with the unsaved, the manner of approach, how to answer their excuses from the Word of God, how to draw in the net and lead them to make a definite decision for Christ, etc.

A Regular Plan of Soul-Winning Visitation

There should be a regular church visitation program. Going back to our text we remember the words "...and daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

It is not enough to preach the gospel in our church services and try to win the unsaved who come into our services, but God would have us to go out into the highways and hedges. The majority of the unsaved will never come to the church. Therefore, the church must go to them. One can easily see that the pastor cannot do all the visitation that needs to be done; therefore, he must lead his people to go with him and to share in this great ministry. This can best be done through an organized visitation program. If you do not have a regular time for such work to be done, it is easy for people to neglect it.

In my own church we have all the workers from the church and Sunday School meet at 7:00 o'clock on Monday evening. After a brief devotional and reports from calls that were made the previous week, and the results of those calls, and an earnest season of prayer, we go out two by two into the homes. Our prospects are

divided according to age among our Sunday School departments. You can see the results of 150 or 200 workers going throughout the city each Monday night. Some are led to Christ in the home, others are interested in coming to the Sunday School where they hear the Word of God taught and then are brought into the preaching service. And Sunday after Sunday we see the workers bringing those whom they have contacted in the home down to the altar where they make definite decisions for Christ and come into the church.

Personal Effort to Win Souls in the Services

This leads us to discuss the fourth thing necessary in building a soul-winning church—the ministry of personal work in the service. I am well aware of the fact that some object to any personal work being done in the services but their objections are overruled by the Word of God. The Apostle Paul said in II Corinthians 5:11, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." It is true that many times personal work is not necessary, that a sinner is truly convicted by the preaching and made willing to immediately step out of his own accord when the invitation is given; but while this is true, there are many timid souls who have the desire to step out for Christ, but they need an encouraging word from a friend or a good worker who knows how to deal with such a case. Sometimes there is some question in the sinner's mind that can be cleared up in a moment by the personal worker. Personal work in the service, however,

Soldier On Trial Blessed By Sword Sermon

The following letter was addressed to Dr. Hershel Ford, pastor First Baptist Church El Paso, Texas, whose good sermon was recently published in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. It is a comfort to Dr. Ford and to us to know that THE SWORD OF THE LORD carries God's message to people in trouble everywhere, and points to the way of peace and happiness and strength and forgiveness.

"Dear Rev. Ford:

"I read your sermon, 'Old Soldiers Never Die' in the July 20th copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. The title first attracted me, because I served under our great soldier, General MacArthur, in the Philippines in World War II. Now I am waiting trial at this institution on the most serious charges.

"I want you to know how much your sermon helped and uplifted me. It is the closest to just what I believe that I have ever seen in writing. You know how we

are always trying to make our lives more Christ-like. Well, 'Old Soldiers Never Die' came to me here like a light on a very dark road. I had been thinking here lately of the trials of prison camp years, and wondering, despondently, if it was worth it after all, only to come to this. Then I read what you wrote about Paul and the message comes from a real soldier's heart—God must have meant it to be this way, and I somehow feel now that I will be able to bear it, remembering Paul.

"God bless you, Reverend. I want you to know you have helped another to the cross that comes before the crown. I am going to send your sermon to my younger brother, on duty at Letterman Army Hospital, for I know it will carry the same message to him that it had for me.

"Sincerely yours,"
(Signed) J— P—

should be very tactful, with as little confusion as possible and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Revival Campaigns—Mass Evangelism

The fifth thing that I would like to mention—and I feel that it is very important—is that every church should at definite intervals conduct fervent evangelistic campaigns. The best kind of revival in the church is a perennial revival. However, it is good and necessary for the spiritual welfare of the church, as well as the winning of souls, to set aside a definite time for a real soul-winning campaign. Evangelism is a definite ministry. In Ephesians 4:11 we read, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and

some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

Earnest preparation should be made for this campaign. Prayer meetings should be held in the church and in the homes and every effort should be made through personal work and advertising to interest the unsaved in the meetings. And there is much good that can come from these spiritual, soul-winning campaigns. First, cold church members will be convicted and led into a life of consecration and soul winning, and this is one of the greatest needs in our churches today. More sinners are going to Hell because of cold, indifferent, worldly church members than any other thing I know about. Therefore, the revival will result in many church members dedicating

their lives for personal work, teaching in the Sunday School, etc.

And the church is always in need of more workers. It is still true that the fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few.

Then, last of all, the all-out effort that is put forth, the fresh ministry of a Holy Spirit anointed evangelist, will result in the salvation of sinners during the campaign itself, and of course that is the main aim of the revival. But if it is the right kind of a revival, its influence and results will extend further than that.

Many new people will be attracted to the church who, though they were not saved during the meeting, can be won to Christ by the workers of the church after the revival is over.

I would sum it all up by saying that a soul-winning church is a church that has Christ as her only head, the Holy Spirit as her only administrator, the winning, baptizing and teaching of souls as her only mission, and the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ as her blessed hope.

In these last days, with the war clouds hanging low, with modernism sweeping like a mighty scourge through the religious world, with churches departing from their first love and substituting a social program for the winning of souls—my earnest prayer is—O God send us a mighty revival that will awaken the churches and preachers of our nation from their cold formalism and ecclesiasticism. May God turn us back to our first love and help us that we may go forth like a mighty army with banners, preaching the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

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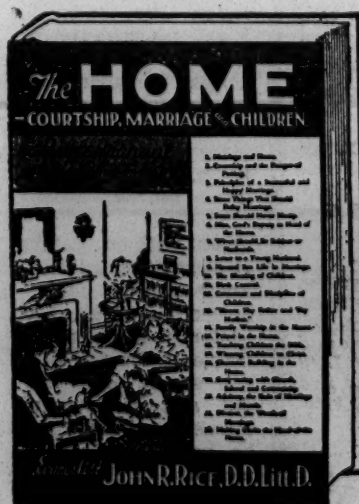
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Four Gospel Absurdities

(Continued from page 1)

tion and have gone to Hell. Let us suppose that God does not keep saved people unless they keep on working hard for Him, and that if any born-again Christian, committing a sin, should die before repenting and getting saved again, he would go to Hell. Let us suppose that such a doctrine is true, and then with prayerful hearts let us see the doctrinal implications of it. Let us see where such a teaching must inevitably lead.

Here are eight ridiculous absurdities that would follow if a saved person should become lost and go to Hell. We entreat you to read them carefully, check up the Scriptures for yourself, and see how untrue to the Scripture is the doctrine that souls may be lost after they are saved, that born-again Christians, children of God, may lose salvation and go to Hell.

I. Then Salvation Would Be of Works and Not of Grace

The Bible doctrine of salvation by grace is clearly stated in the Bible in Ephesians 2:8,9:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

The same truth, that men are not saved by their righteous lives but by the miracle of regeneration received by faith, is taught in Titus 3:5. Everywhere in the Bible we are taught that salvation is not by human works of righteousness but by God's grace.

There is no doubt that many devout Christian people who believe that a child of God can become lost again mean to believe the Bible doctrine of salvation by grace. They will be shocked when I say that they are really teaching

salvation by works and not of grace. But careful study will show that that is certainly true. If a saved person can be lost again, then it is because he failed in his works. If he does not become lost, then it is because of his good works. Thus, all who are saved are really saved by their works, if the Arminian doctrine is true.

In a revival campaign in Whittier, California, one young man came forward to be saved three different times in three weeks. Each time he claimed that he had been saved before, but had sinned and became lost again in the next few days. Really, that is not an unusual experience. Once I held services in a Salvation Army hall, and following my plain invitation for lost sinners to repent of their sins and come to trust Christ for salvation, about half of the regular attendants, who had long testified to their salvation, came forward to be saved again. I have even known people to be saved one night, and the next night, declaring they were lost again, come

forward to be saved again! Last week a good man told me how in his church, which believes that saved people are lost again when they sin, in each revival campaign most of the members of the church come forward to be saved again. That seems to me to be little salvation and greatly dishonor God. But if a child of God is lost when he sins, then all these were exactly right in coming to be saved again, and again, and again, if they had sinned again and had become lost again.

Actually, you can see that if on that plan one gets to Heaven at all it will be because of his holding out faithful, because of his "enduring to the end." If that were true, it seems clear that whatever salvation people got by repentance and faith might not last ten minutes, might not amount to anything at all. Any such salvation, which does not guarantee getting one to Heaven, is not any real salvation. The real salvation, according to such doctrine, would be that which is earned by faithfully living for Christ.

Suppose one trusts in Christ for salvation and that salvation does not stay with him as a matter of pure grace for even ten minutes. The rest of his life he must work hard to keep saved. When such a person would get safely in Heaven, he would have less than ten minutes of salvation by grace and long years of salvation by his own good deeds!

Those who oppose the plain Bible doctrine of eternal salvation by simple faith in Christ, that Christ keeps His own by grace when He saves them, very frankly admit that they believe all Christians are on probation, that they are not really saved yet in any real sense. And tens of thousands of such people regularly pray, "And save us at last in Heaven," because they do not believe in any real and definite and secure salvation here and now, obtained by the marvelous grace of God. Actually, they believe in salvation by works, not in salvation by grace.

Can a saved person ever be lost? That depends on who does the saving. If God does the saving, then of course if God fails, the salvation is lost. If God is faithful and does what He promises, then one who trusts in Him will not become lost. But if man does his own saving by his good works, then when man quits working he is lost. And if he does "hold out faithful," if he does "endure to the end," and if he does "go through with God," then of course his salvation is by human works and not by God's unmerited grace.

But that is an absurdity, for Ephesians 2:8, 9 says:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

The clearest doctrine in the Bible is that no man deserves salvation and that only God's grace, His unmerited favor, His mercy on Hell-deserving sinners, can keep any of us from eternal destruction.

But if a saved man becomes lost from lack of works, or stays saved because he lives faithfully for God, then salvation is not of grace at all but is all of man's works.

If a born-again Christian can lose his salvation, then Cain was right to expect to be saved by the fruit of the ground which he raised by his hard toil and labor. And if a saved person is only on probation and is not saved a second beyond any sin he may be trapped into, then Abel was wrong to bring the blood of the lamb, expecting forgiveness and salvation altogether apart from his own merits.

If a saved person can be lost again after he has trusted Christ for forgiveness and salvation, then the Pharisee was right when he came into the temple to pray and said, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess" (Luke 18:11, 12). The Pharisee frankly thought he was on probation, that by his good deeds he would go to Heaven. If a saved person who has trusted in the blood of Christ can be lost, then the poor publican who smote upon his breast and said, "God be

merciful to me a sinner," was all wrong; and instead of asking for mercy, he should have started out to live right and make sure of Heaven by "holding out faithful"! What an absurdity, almost blasphemous, that is! For the Scripture clearly teaches us that the publican went down to his house justified rather than the Pharisee, though it was the Pharisee who was so careful to live right!

But is it not clear that if salvation is of man's works, man can lose his salvation when his works fail; while if salvation is by God's grace, then salvation cannot be lost as long as God's grace is sufficient?

II. The Doctrine of the Blood Atonement and Substitutionary Death of Christ Would Be Untrue If a Saved Person Loses His Salvation

The Bible doctrine of the atonement is that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed when He was crucified, paid for the sins of the whole world. First Peter 1:19 tells us that we are redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." Paul in Acts 20:28 commanded the elders at Ephesus to take heed "to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." The church, according to the Scripture, is bought with the blood of Christ. And speaking about Christians who sin, I John 2:1, 2 says, "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

There we have a clear Bible doctrine: Jesus died, and with His blood He made propitiation for the sins of the whole world. Anyone who will accept that payment finds his sins all atoned for, all paid for. God does not mean that just the sins up until the time of salvation are paid for, but all of the sins which one commits. Christ died once and settled the sin question, once and forever, for those who believe. Hebrews 10:12-14 said about Jesus as our High Priest:

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

One offering of Christ paid for all the sins of the past, all the sins of the present, all the sins of the future.

But that is not the teaching of those who believe that a saved person can be lost again. If a man is lost for lack of labor, lack of faithfulness after he is saved, then actually he goes to Hell to pay for his own sins. Surely it is clear that for a man to pay for his own sins is not the same as having them paid for by the Lord Jesus. If a Christian gets to Heaven only by living right, then he does not get there by the atoning blood of Christ. If he loses his salvation because of his sin, then of course he is not saved by the blood. If the blood cannot pay for sinners, it cannot pay for ANYBODY.

The Bible doctrine of substitution is akin to the doctrine of blood atonement. By substitution we mean that Christ took the sinner's place. That is expressed in Isaiah 53:6:

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Christ on the cross was treated like a common, guilty, Hell-deserving criminal. He died as the most wicked sinner in the world. Actually He died just as you and I ought to die. He took the punishment and suffering we deserved.

But the doctrine of substitution also teaches that as Christ was counted a sinner for our sakes, so we may be counted righteous for His sake. He took our sins; we take His righteousness. Since Christ died for us, we are already accounted to have died for our sins and to be freed from them. As He died, so we are counted to have died. As He now lives forever, so we are to live. It is one of the clearest doctrines of the

(Continued on page 11)

What's in a Name?

A rose, Mr. Shakespeare says, by any other name would smell as sweet!

Probably a book by any other name would read the same, too, but titles may be misleading. And at best—the name of a book can give you only a hint as to what the book is about. Here we add a few words about each of them to help you understand "what's in the name."

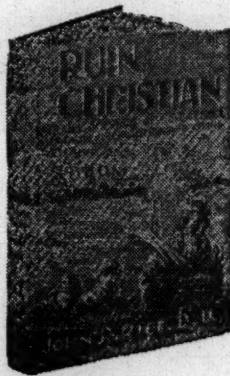
THE RUIN OF A CHRISTIAN

As in many cases, this book takes its name from the title of the first chapter. The Christian is Lot, and Dr. John R. Rice draws some sobering, powerful lessons for Christians from the story of his ruin. Other Christians who appear in this book are Achan, Jacob, Joshua and the lukewarm Laodiceans. Your heart will be stirred and challenged as you read these chapters of warning and teaching on Christian living.

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| 2. Lukewarmness—The Sin That Makes God Vomit. | 8. "Speak Not Evil One of Another, Brethren." |
| 3. God's Slaughter Crew. | 9. Judge Not! |
| 4. The Curse of Hidden Sins. | 10. "Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers." |
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| 4. Will a Loving God Send Sinners to Hell? | 11. Facing the Pierced Jesus |
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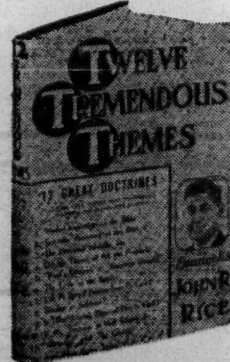
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Why Do Souls Go Away?

(Continued from page 7)

approach them concerning personal religion, will tell us that they intend to say yes to Christ, that they desire to be saved, that they fully expect this important matter of personal salvation to be settled a little later. But it is a little later that they say. It is tomorrow. It is by and by.

Down yonder on the Mexican border, where I have often and joyfully preached to the cattlemen through the passing years, I have heard one cry escape the Mexicans' lips which is revelatory to a remarkable degree of the Mexican character. It would explain why Mexico is so belated in the development of her civilization. That little word that the Mexican uses so frequently is this: "Manana!" "Tomorrow!" You may crowd upon him this duty, or that, or the other, and he will consent to what you are saying, but in an undertone he will say: "Manana! Manana! Manana!" Tomorrow! Tomorrow! Tomorrow! And so it is Satan's supreme cry to the human soul concerning religion—"Manana! Manana!" Tomorrow! Tomorrow! And as he cries it, men and women are beguiled and caajoled and deceived, and thus the battle is forever lost for the human soul. May God now arouse this audience from the awful peril of procrastination, that you may turn to God and be saved!

Where Do They Go?

I am coming to our second question briefly. I have asked you, Why do people go away from Jesus? Now to the second question more briefly, Where do they go? Echo answers, Where? Where do they go? Well, if they are Christians and go away from Jesus, as many of them, alas, do, they go into backslidings. Oh, what stories could be told in this fair city about us, and in any other, of drifting Christians, if only hearts were revealed, and we could read all that in them is. Backslidden Christians! David went away from his Lord, and oh, the hurt of it! Samson went away from his Lord, Oh, the hurt of it! Simon Peter denied the Lord, Oh, the shame of it and the hurt of it! And through the long years the friends of Jesus have listened to siren voices and have gone away from the right path into backsliding. How they have harmed religion! How they have harmed souls for whom the Savior died! How they have harmed themselves! How they have grieved Jesus! Do I speak to somebody here today who is a backslidden Christian? Oh, I exhort you, I summon you, I beseech you, for your own sake and for the sake of everybody else, hasten back to Christ!

They Go to Hell

I ask you this other question: Where do people go when they go away from Jesus, those that are not saved at all, those that are not born again, where do they go when they go away from Jesus? Jesus tells us in language unmistakable. "Ye shall die in your sins," He said to some who cavilled at His teachings, "and whither I go ye cannot come." You ask me if I believe in the

fact of Hell. I believe the fact of Hell as much as I believe the fact of Heaven, and I believe in the fact of the one for the same reason that I believe in the fact of the other. The one clear teacher concerning destiny, concerning the hereafter, was Christ Jesus the Lord, and He teaches that every man dying "shall go to his own place." Moral gravity is as real in the world of morals as physical gravity is real in the world natural and physical about us. Every man shall go to his own place when he leaves this world. If a man says to Jesus: "I will go on without you," where Jesus is, such man shall not come. If a man says to Jesus: "I disdain all else, frail as I am and sinful, and I believe on Christ, I can do nothing else, God help me," when such man goes hence, he will go to be with Christ.

They Go Away From the Bible

Now, if you go away from Christ, pray look at what you give up. If you go away from Jesus you must give up this Book. Christ and the Bible are indissolubly linked together. If you can get rid of the Bible, you can get rid of Christ. If you can get rid of Christ, you can get rid of the Bible. The one is the complement and counterpart of the other. Christ and the Bible are the binomial word of God. If you get rid of Christ you get rid of the Bible, and if you propose to get rid of the Bible, sing no more by the open grave that shepherd's psalm, the twenty-third. Sing no more by the open grave when you hide your loved ones from your sight, the glorious fourteenth chapter of John: "Let not your heart be troubled." You are done with Christ, if you are done with the Bible, and if done with Christ, you are done with the Bible.

They Go Against the Testimony of Greatest People in the World

What else do you get rid of when you get rid of Christ? You discredit the testimony of every friend that Jesus has ever had in all the world, and He has had friends many, both great and small. Many of the world's most capable minds have been the devoted friends and followers of Jesus. Gladstone said he knew sixty of the greatest minds of his century, and that fifty-four of them—scientists, statesmen, mighty men in all callings—were the devoutest friends of Jesus that he ever saw.

Oh, this gospel that we preach, my men and women, is not a collection of cunningly devised fables for people silly and thoughtless. The sanest thing on the face of the earth this Thursday morning is for a man or woman to be pronounced the friend of Christ—that is the sanest thing of all. Jesus is the needed Savior for the great as well as the weak. Will you look over the world's great names? In the list you will find many friends and followers of Jesus. Look yonder at the list of scientists, and in that list you will see Miller and Agassiz and Proctor, bowing obediently at the feet of Jesus. Look at the world's astronomers, and you will see Co-



pernicus and Kepler and Newton showing their devotion to Jesus. Look at the world's first statesmen, and you will see Washington and Gladstone and others like them, showing their devotion to Jesus. And so through the centuries you will see the earth's first minds devotedly following Christ.

But I would bring the truth nearer you than that. There in the little circles where you and I live, are some whose names never get into the newspapers at all, but you and I believe in them as we believe in nobody else in the world, and they tell us that they have tried Jesus and found Him true.

Yonder in the United States Senate some time ago, when a group of senators were at a dinner, as the story was told me by one who knew, one senator looked across to the chiefest senator at that time in the Senate, and said to him: "Senator, do you believe in that old doctrine that a man must be born again to get to heaven?"

The senator after a moment's pause made serious reply: "I certainly do. I am grieved to have to tell you that I am not a Christian myself, but I believe in the doctrine of the new birth as preached by Christ."

Then the first senator, wincing under the remarkable answer, said to the second, after a moment more: "Pray tell me why you believe in that old exploded doctrine of the new birth?"

The senator waited a moment, and his face was serious and a tear was in his eye, as he said: "My mother and my wife have both told me that they surrendered to Christ, and have been born again, and they both live like it is so." You cannot answer that!

They Go Away From the Only Answer for Sin, Sorrow and Death

I detain you for a final word. If you go away from Jesus you are left baffled and broken in the presence of the three greatest mysteries of all, and I name them and then we will go. If you go away from Jesus you are left broken and baffled in the presence of sin. You have no Saviour if you reject Jesus. He is the only Saviour. And the most terrible and obtruding fact on the earth this Thursday morning is the fact of sin in human life. If you get rid of Jesus, you have no Saviour from sin.

And if you get rid of Jesus, you are left beaten and broken, with all the sorrow that is regnant in human life. Pause anywhere and you will hear the undertone of sorrow—anywhere. If you get rid of Jesus you have no delivering friend from the thralldom of sorrow.

And still more, and most of all if you get rid of Jesus you are left in the presence of death, without light and without hope and without life, broken in the presence of death. When you come to the grave you will need a Saviour. Plato and Socrates merely speculated as they looked into the open grave. So did Caesar when he stood up in the Roman Senate. Job asked the question: "If a man die, shall he live again?" Only one person has answered that question. Only one can answer it, and His name is Jesus. He came and bowed His head to death, and went into the dark chambers of the grave, and on the third day after they laid Him in Joseph's tomb, He pushed the grave door open and came out, saying: "Because I live all who trust me shall live forever." Oh, you must not dare to live or die without Jesus!

*'Tis religion that can give
Sweetest pleasures while we live.
'Tis religion must supply
Solid comfort when we die.*

*After death its joys will be
Lasting as eternity.
Be the living God my friend,
Then my joys will never end.*

Tell me, are you for Jesus? I would be for Him, were I in your place today, if I had to go through flame and flood to follow Him. Be for Him before it is too late! Does He call you today? Follow Him, trust Him, yield yourself to Him whatever your condition or case may be, and His word for you is sure: "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out."

THE CLOSING PRAYER.

How deep is our joy, O, our Father, that we have such a Saviour, even the Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive us and guide us and keep us forever. As we stand here to-day may we promise one another, and above all may we promise Christ to cleave to Him and to cleave to Him forever. And if one is here to-day in the grip of doubt or sin or difficulty of any kind, lead such to be candid and wholehearted, as such one seeks the way of life, and may such one soon tell us that he or she has found that blessed way and is going with us as we follow Christ.

And as you go now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion and blessing of the Holy Spirit, be granted you all and each, to abide with you to-day and forever. Amen.

(From the book, A QUEST FOR SOULS, by the late George W. Truett, published by Broadman Press, Nashville, Tennessee. Used by permission of the publishers.)

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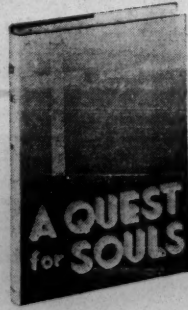
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Four Gospel Absurdities

(Continued from page 9)

Bible that Christ took the sinner's place in His death, and thereby atoned for all the sins of everyone who would believe in Him, and that now the believer in Christ is accounted righteous for Christ's sake. We have Christ's righteousness in the presence of God.

But this could not be true if one who is saved can become lost again. If a sin of mine can come up against me to damn my soul forever, after I have already trusted in the blood of Christ, then it is quite evident that the blood did not really settle all my sins, that Christ did not really and literally take my place, and that people are not saved by the atoning blood and the substitutionary death of Christ. If the blood paid for sins, then they are ALL paid for. If Christ took my place and died for all my sins, past, present, and future, then, since I have trusted in Him, I cannot be condemned and go to Hell for these sins. You can see, then, that if my continued salvation depends upon my good life, it does not depend upon the blood shed by the Lord Jesus and by His substitutionary death.

III. If a Saved Person Can Lose Salvation, Then Saved Persons Are Not Justified, as the Bible Teaches

The Bible speaks often of justification. In Romans 3:9-18 we learn that there are none good, and none do good; that all are sinners alike. But Romans 3:24-28 tells us of sinners:

"24. Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26. To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he

might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

According to this Bible teaching on justification, men are "justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Justification is free; it does not cost anything.

Because Christ died, we are told, God can save a sinner and still be just while He justifies one who trusts in Jesus (verse 26). This kind of justification forbids boasting. No one can depend on getting to Heaven by "holding out faithful" or by living a good life or by "going through with God." And then verse 28 declares, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." People are saved and justified by faith, without doing the righteous things commanded in the Ten Commandments.

What does justification mean? It means not only that the sinner is forgiven, but more than that; it means that after the sinner is forgiven, he is restored to God's favor as if he were perfectly just, that is, as if he had never sinned. In other words, he is counted righteous or just, and is made just in God's sight. So God looks on a sinner not only as a forgiven sinner, but rather as a man with no sin ever charged against him. A justified person in God's sight is as if he had never sinned when it comes to the matter of getting to Heaven and having salvation. This justification is clearly given to all those who believe in Christ.

Remember that the penitent publican prayed in the temple "God be merciful to me a sinner," then he "went down to his house justified," that is, counted no longer a sinner (Luke 18:13,14). In Acts 13:38, 39 Paul and Barnabas preached,

"Be it known unto you, therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

We see that one is justified from all things as soon as he puts his trust in Christ.

Above we called attention to the teaching on justification in the last of the third chapter of Romans. In the fourth chapter of Romans this teaching is continued. Romans 4:3-8 says:

"3. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7. Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and

whose sins are covered. 8. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."

Here we see clearly what the Bible doctrine of justification is. Abraham was justified simply by believing God. When he put his trust in God for salvation, his faith "was counted unto him for righteousness" (vs. 3).

To the man who does no good works, "to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." God justifies people who are ungodly when they trust in Him. Then, that faith is counted instead of righteousness. We have Christ's righteousness credited to us as soon as we put our trust in Him. Then verse 6 tells us how blessed is the man "unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works." God counts one righteous who is not! That is justification. The believer's sins are covered, are forgiven, says verse 7. And verse 8 says, "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." When a man puts his trust in Christ, the Bible doctrine is that he is justified then, and that in the future God will not impute sin to him, will not charge up sin against him to the damnation of his soul.

Of course we know that God still deals with His children on the matter of their sins and chastens them as necessary, but He never charges their sins against them in the sense of damage to their souls. Christians will face their sins at the judgment seat of Christ, and will lose some of their reward (I Cor. 3:10-15), but will be "saved so as by fire."

But if a saved person loses his salvation, it is clear that this whole doctrine of justification would be false. How could a man go to Hell who was perfectly just in God's sight? That is impossible! How could a man go to Hell without sin being imputed or charged up against him? That is impossible! So the doctrine that a saved person, one who is born again, a child of God, can fall away so far as to lose his salvation and be lost forever, clearly contradicts the Bible doctrine of justification. Both cannot be true.

IV. If a Saved Person Ever Loses Salvation Then Christ's High-Priestly Intercessory Prayers Are of No Avail

The Bible teaches us that Christ is now our High Priest. Hebrews 10:21, 22 tells us:

"And having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith."

And Hebrews 9:24 says,

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."

These Scriptures make it clear that Christ's work for sinners was not done when He died. After we have put our trust in Christ, then Christ remains always at the right hand of God to take our part, to intercede for us, to represent us in Heaven.

Romans 5:9, 10 says,

"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

You see, we are already justified by the blood of Christ. The death of Christ took care of all of our sins. And now, we are kept, not by our own lives, but "by his life."

A Christian should hold fast to his profession. Even when Satan traps him and he falls into sin, he should not throw away his hope. Why? Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us:

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Jesus knows all our temptations. He is our High Priest; is now in the Heavens, taking our

place. Oh, "let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!"

Do you know of some sin of a Christian? No doubt you do. I know of sins of my own and I know of sins of others. And knowing my own wicked heart and sinful nature somewhat, I am sure that I can make no boast of my goodness even for the future. Peter boasted, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee," and see what tragedy came to him! But can I condemn you, a Christian who has fallen into some temptation and sinned—can I condemn you and say that you are not saved, that you are not going to Heaven? No! For in Romans 8:33, 34 is this wonderful promise of the high-priestly work of Christ, who keeps us.

"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

Christians do sin, but Christians cannot be condemned to go to Hell. Why? Because Christ not only died, but "is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

When Jesus told Peter, "I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me" (Luke 22:34), He had already told Peter that He, Jesus, had prayed for him. Satan would sift Peter as wheat, and Peter, tempted, would deny Christ three times; yet even in that terrible sin Peter's faith did not fail. "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not," said Jesus. Peter had trusted Christ for salvation, and that salvation he still had. Why? Because Jesus prayed for him! Peter did not go through the sifter. God kept his soul safe while he went through the harrowing experience and while he fell into sin. Peter's sin was terrible, and he suffered over it, as all of God's children will and must suffer if they sin. But Jesus had prayed for Peter, and when he turned, "was converted" that is, his life turned back to God (not his soul saved again), he was able to strengthen others because of the lessons he had learned through his terrible temptation and sin. I do not condone Peter's sin. I simply say that Jesus promised He had prayed for him and that Peter would come back to usefulness after the sin.

Does Christ pray for all of us so that Satan cannot get us? Yes, that is exactly what the Bible teaches! I John 2:1, 2 says,

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not: And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

We ought not to sin. If we sin we suffer for it, and God's cause suffers. God chastens His children. But if we Christians do sin, then "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." We have a Friend at court; we have a blessed Mediator who ever lives to make intercession for us according to the will of God. How can a child of God go to Hell when Jesus is taking his part and praying for him in Heaven?

This intercessory, high-priestly work of Jesus in praying for Christians goes on all the time. He is our Advocate all the time. And always He is able to remind the Father that He is the propitiation for our sins, that He has paid for them all, that they have been charged to Him and ought not to be charged against us in the sense of damning our souls. Oh, I am glad that Jesus is always on the job taking my part in Heaven, making intercession for us!

I like for other people to pray for me. But others do not always have their prayers answered. Jesus does. Remember that He said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always" (John 11:41,42). God always hears Jesus when He prays. And Jesus prays for His own. That is His

daily business. And thus we are kept by the power of God.

In John 17 is recorded an extensive prayer of the Saviour. Jesus and the disciples have left the upper room and have started for the Garden of Gethsemane. On the road Jesus starts to pray. Let us reverently draw near in the quiet night, the night before the crucifixion, and hear the Lord Jesus as He prays. Oh, if you listen closely, you may hear your own name called by the Saviour in prayer! After praying for the disciples who were with Him Jesus said,

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou has loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am: that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

Jesus was praying for us! He was praying for every one of us who, through the words of the disciples and those they should preach to, should hear His word and believe on Him! He prayed "for them also which shall believe on me through their word."

And for what did Jesus ask? Listen! "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me." Jesus prayed that all who would ever trust in Him would land safe in Heaven, to be with Christ and to behold His glory! Oh, what a High Priest! Thank God for His intercessory prayers which guarantee Heaven for one who has put his trust in Him.

But if a saved person ever falls away and loses salvation and goes to Hell, then all the high-priestly prayers of Christ are of no avail; the prayer of Jesus in John, chapter 17, was not heard. It does no good that He ever lives to make intercession for us according to the will of God. It does no good that "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"—that is, I say, it does no good if a saved soul can be lost after he had been born again by faith in Christ.

Do you not see that the Bible doctrine of the high-priestly work of Christ in interceding for His own clearly contradicts the foolish thought that a child of God will be lost again? The two doctrines cannot go together.

Does it not seem clear, after you have prayerfully read this article, that if one who has trusted Christ for his salvation and been converted and born again should become lost, that that would contradict the Bible doctrine of salvation by grace alone, not of works? And if a saved person loses his salvation then how could it be salvation wholly by the blood of Christ, and by His substitutionary death on the cross? If a saved person can be lost, then surely he was not justified so that sin could not be imputed to him. If a saved person loses salvation when Jesus our High Priest is praying for him to be kept, then Christ's high-priestly intercession does not avail; His work is a failure.

Of course, any such supposition is absurd and proves that a saved person cannot be lost.

Above you have read four preposterous absurdities that would be true if a saved person could lose his salvation. Next week, God willing, this message will be continued telling of four more absurdities, contradicting great Bible truths, that would be true if a born-again soul ever lost salvation.

I beg you in Jesus' name to make sure you settle this matter by the Bible itself, not by opinion, nor tradition, nor by logic. God's thoughts are not man's thoughts, nor His ways man's ways. The only safe plan for a Christian is to believe everything the Bible says, to take it at honest face value, and ask the Holy Spirit to help him understand it.

The pamphlet, *Eight Gospel Absurdities* If a Born-Again Soul Ever Loses Salvation, with 24 large pages, may be had for only 15c. The companion pamphlet, on the same subject, *Can a Saved Person Ever Be Lost?* is the same size and price. Both will be sent for 30c. Why not send \$1 for 7 copies and have some to distribute among interested friends. Address, *Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.*

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Methodist Pastor Defends Socialism

(Continued from page 2)

of the McCarran Act, which forbids entry of aliens who belong to organizations of persons who advocate forcible overthrow of the government. In other words, this Methodist Federation for Social Action voted to favor the entry of communists into this country. According to the *Chicago Daily News* 'the Federation turned down several proposed resolutions that would have placed it on record as condemning communism or the action of Soviet Russia.' According to the *Chicago Daily Tribune* '...the Federation proposed rapid expansion of co-operatives and public ownership of major sectors of the economy, leaving to free enterprise "farms, homes, and small specialty businesses." Instead of the Bible plan of private ownership of property so clearly set out in the Mosaic law and approved in the New Testament by Christ Himself and the apostles this group of socialists and pro-communists in the Methodist Federation for Social Action wants all major businesses seized by the government and only 'farms, homes, and small specialty businesses' left in the hands of their present owners. Remember that is the same plan on which the Bolsheviks started out in Russia. It was just a few years later, however, until they starved or murdered millions of kulaks, or small business owners, and seized the farms also, turned them into collectives, state-owned farms.

"Now, Mr. Crawford, if you are for socialism and communism, for Marxism in doctrine, why don't you say so, instead of pretending to have the Christian philosophy and doctrine? On the other hand, if you are really a Bible-believing Christian, you should find out what is really going on before you write an attack on Bible believers.

"I have never said that Dr. Oxnam is a member of the Communist Party. That I do not know, and of course you do not know. But that Dr. Oxnam is pro-communist in doctrine is beyond any shadow of doubt, as proven by his own public statements, his writings, and his associations. For you to call that 'name calling,' when I give the facts in the case, is the smear technique of the communists.

"2. You say, 'You have accepted the Fascist technique. Our Lord would consider this a very serious matter, I believe. He stood for freedom in man under God against the stifling influences of the Jewish authorities. Paul stood for the same freedom against the Judaizers in the early church. Bishop Oxnam, Stanley Jones, and most of those you castigate are in this same tradition. Are you sure you are not the one out of step with Jesus, Paul, and the guiding of the Holy Spirit in our day? I have failed to find evidence of Christian humility on your part in the content of these discussions. What Christian dare be so sure in these matters as you purport to be?"

"ANSWER: Yes, I am absolutely sure that I am not out of step with Jesus and Paul and the guiding of the Holy Spirit. You say, 'What Christian dare be so sure in these matters as you purport to be?' The answer is that I am absolutely sure because I have the infallible, inspired Bible to guide me. I know what Paul says and what Jesus says in the Word of God and so I know that I am not out of step with them. And I know the Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible still leads the same way now. It is silly and stupid, or it is maliciously insincere for anybody to pretend to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit who does not believe the Bible. It is wicked insincerity for anybody to pretend

to follow Jesus Christ and not take His stand for the very Word of God. You are not sure because you do not believe the Bible. I am sure because I do believe the Bible.

"To count the authority of the inspired Bible on a par with the traditions of the Judaizers and the Pharisees is silly. Again that is a smear technique. Those are feigned words such as the Scripture prophecies clearly that unbelievers will use in the last days. False teachers 'shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction. . . And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.' (II Pet. 2:1,3). And I Timothy 4:1,2 tells us that 'now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.' For anybody to pretend to be a better Christian than others because he ignores the Bible is blatant hypocrisy and infidelity. For Oxnam to quote favorably the statement that God of the Old Testament is 'a dirty bully' and to commend the boy who said, 'I hate Jehovah' because of God's judgment on sin is blasphemy.

"There is a wonderful freedom in Christianity but it is a freedom under the authority of the Word of God. One who denies the authority and infallible accuracy of the Word of God has no right to call himself a Christian and no right to take a position as a minister of the gospel or to receive pay for preaching a Christ he does not honor and in a Bible whose doctrine he does not believe, claiming to be a Christian when he denies the very fundamentals of historic Bible Christianity.

"3. And that leads me to say that for you to remain in the Methodist church, bowing to Oxnam, McConnell and other infidel bishops, supporting colleges and seminaries which you know break down the faith of students in the Word of God, sending out preachers to preach a so-called social gospel of reform and racial fellowship but no real gospel of redemption by the blood of Christ makes any statements you make on such matters suspect. You know which side your bread is buttered on. You have taken your choice deliberately to stay with unbelievers and to support modernism. Now, every thinking person will know that you must rationalize the socialism of Jones and the modernism of Oxnam in self-defence. I do not know you personally and so I do not accuse you. It may be you simply have not thought the thing through. It may be that you are not familiar with the plain command of God in II Corinthians 6:14-18 not to yoke up with unbelievers, or that you have not thought the matter through. So I do not know your motives and do not call you names. But thoughtful people have a right to suspect and fear that you have sold out your convictions to keep a job, or that you are yourself a deliberate modernist and socialist who does not believe the Bible and does not claim to promote historic Christianity like that of John Wesley, the founder of your church.

"I say that I do not know; it may be that you have not yet thought the thing through, and when you do think it through you will clear yourself in these matters. But thoughtful people will surely suspect you until you do. "Thank you for writing.

"In the Saviour's name, yours,"
John R. Rice



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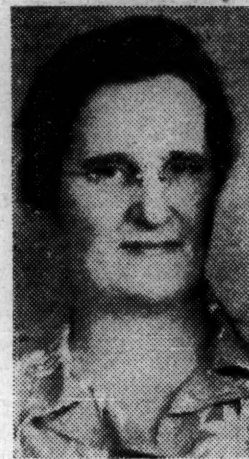
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